



# State of the State TUCSON

January 12, 2010

Thank you.

I love being in southern Arizona.

In fact, since becoming Governor, I have made it a point to travel here every two or three weeks.

Now, some skeptics might say I do this more as an escape from the Capitol – and the Legislature – but, I can tell you, honestly, my visits are motivated more by a sincere affection for southern Arizona, than any dis-affection with anything going on in Phoenix.

After all, I did not look to Phoenix for the right person to appoint to the Supreme Court, qualified as those Phoenixians might have been.

No, I looked right here and found Court of Appeals Judge John Pelander, one of Arizona's most brilliant jurists.

I found Judy Lowe and asked her to be my Director of the Department of Real Estate.

I found Steve Christy and asked him to serve on the State Transportation Board.

I am also pleased to announce this afternoon, that I have selected Richard T. Myers to replace Fred Boice on the Arizona Board of Regents. Richard is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, and I am confident his skills and dedication will win him early and unanimous confirmation by the Arizona Senate. I want to thank Fred for his long and faithful service on behalf of the people of Arizona; his guidance was a great gift to the State.

Not long ago I was pleased to help dedicate the new Ventana Medical Systems research center to Dr. Tom Grogan, founder of Ventana, whose vision has aided cancer patients through pioneering innovation.

Ventana Medical Systems is a true global leader, one which remains focused on the development of a highly talented workforce and maintaining a culture of high performance. It is a philosophy of job creation and retention that I have established for the entire state.

Let me also acknowledge, "Becker's Hospital Review," magazine has named University Medical Center in Tucson one of the 10 best hospitals in America. "University Medical Center pushes the quality envelope in many directions," according to the magazine, citing awards the hospital won this year from Thomson Reuters, the University HealthSystems Consortium and the National Research Corporation.

As a child raised on a military base, I have a special affection for our Armed Forces and the men and women who serve in it. I would like to thank the men and women who currently support our nation's call to serve in either the active or reserve component of the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marines.

At any given date, there are over 1,000 Airmen deployed across the globe from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron "Bulldogs" flying the A-10 "Warthog" have been deployed since July, 2009 to Afghanistan, returning sometime in the near future after a wildly successful deployment. General Paul Johnson, on behalf of all Arizonans, I thank you for your service, and, as the wing commander, I thank you for your leadership.

Please join me in saluting them for their daily sacrifice, along with their spouses, children and extended families. May God bring them -- and all of Arizona's service men and women -- safely home.

I well understand the vital nature of our infrastructure and the essential arteries that allow us to prosper in our Second Century.

Arizona has always been a hub for commerce and trade. More than 380,000 trucks pass through Arizona's International Ports of Entry a year. In Nogales alone, 4 billion pounds of fresh produce pass through the Mariposa Port, accounting for 45 percent of all fresh produce consumed in the United States from October through May.

Just three months ago, Governor Padres and I had the opportunity to be a part of the groundbreaking for the new Mariposa port of entry in Nogales. This project will double -- if not triple -- the inspection capacity at our major gateway for trade in the entire region. The port of entry will include state-of-the-art technology that will better secure our region, but, most importantly, it will also facilitate the trade flow in and out of Arizona.

In addition to Mariposa, the ports of entry of San Luis II and Lukeville are receiving improvements that are currently in progress and due to open early next year.

Improving our ports of entry help with the flow of people, goods and services as well as increase security on both sides of the border, which is what is needed to be successful. And there are corresponding projects on the Mexican side of the border to complement what we are doing on our side as well.

A shared vision and commitment by our two states will allow us to capitalize on the areas of opportunity and make the Arizona-Sonora region into the safest region along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trade with Mexico is increasing and we need to prepare for increased trade traffic or lose it to surrounding states. One key strategy to ensure Arizona's competitiveness in this area is to utilize modern technology to streamline processes at our international ports that ensures both public safety and the efficient movement of commercial traffic.

Meanwhile, the Canamex Task Force serves as a voice for international trade and tourism, and keeps those needs front and center as we make difficult choices about infrastructure resources. Although CANAMEX is much broader than just Mexico, an international trade corridor must obviously be focused on our largest and most important trading partner.

I also see significant strides are being made toward completion of the much anticipated Interstate 10 - Twin Peaks Interchange. By this time next year, traffic will be flowing on the Twin Peaks Interchange.

Back in April I called the Regents to begin reforming our higher education business model and I specifically asked that the models be affordable, predictable, and accountable. I said it then and I'll say it now. Having almost all of our undergraduates in research-level universities is too expensive. Now I want to thank them and the community colleges for their response and ask you for their support as they begin to move forward. The solutions that are being proposed such as regional partnerships with community colleges, university centers, or new baccalaureate campuses will look different from region to region as needs may vary, but I ask you all to not only concern ourselves with our region because ultimately we need a solution that is statewide and long-term.

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